



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Parish Staff

Fr. Leonard Gicheru
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Director
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Richard Jolevette
Custodian

Melvin Kerr
Choir/Music Ministry

George Hans
Accountant
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Mass Schedule:
9:00 a.m. Sunday Service
9:00 a.m. Wednesday Mass
6:00 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Service

Main Office Hours:
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Mon, Wed, Thur & Fri
(816) 471-3696
www.stmonicakc.org

From our Pastor

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

The Eucharist: The Heartbeat of Our Catholic Life

Every human heart has a rhythm. When the heart stops beating, life begins to fade. In much the same way, the Eucharist is the heartbeat of the Christian life. Remove it, and our spiritual lives slowly weaken. Stay close to it, and we discover strength, purpose, joy, and a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), the Church invites us to reflect on a profound truth: the Eucharist is not merely something we receive; it is Someone we receive. At every Mass, Jesus gives Himself completely to us under the appearance of bread and wine. The same Jesus who walked the roads of Galilee, healed the sick, forgave sinners, died on the cross, and rose from the dead comes to us in Holy Communion.

This is why the Eucharist stands at the very center of our Catholic faith.

Many of us remember special meals shared with family. Around a dinner table, stories are told, relationships are strengthened, and memories are created. The Eucharist is God's family meal. Every Sunday, we gather as brothers and sisters in Christ, and our Heavenly Father feeds us with the Bread of Life. Yet this meal is unlike any other.



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Ordinary food becomes part of us. In the Eucharist, we become more like the One we receive. St. Augustine beautifully expressed this truth when he imagined Christ saying, "You will not change me into yourself like bodily food; rather, you will be changed into me."

The challenge for many Catholics is familiarity. We have attended Mass for years. We know when to sit, stand, kneel, and respond. Sometimes the extraordinary can begin to feel ordinary. We can lose our sense of wonder.

Imagine discovering that a famous celebrity was coming to your home for dinner. You would clean the house, prepare carefully, and eagerly await the visit. Yet at every Mass, the King of Kings comes to meet us. Do we prepare our hearts with the same excitement? Do we arrive early to pray? Do we approach Holy Communion with gratitude and reverence? Do we spend a few moments thanking Jesus after receiving Him?

Growing in our appreciation of the Eucharist begins with slowing down and recognizing the gift before us.

The saints understood this well. They drew their strength from the Eucharist. They knew that before they could change the world, they first had to spend time with Christ. The Eucharist became their source of courage, wisdom, compassion, and holiness.

The same is true for us. When life becomes difficult, the Eucharist strengthens us. When we are discouraged, the Eucharist comforts us. When we are confused, the Eucharist guides us. When we feel alone, the Eucharist reminds us that Christ remains with us always.

Corpus Christi is an invitation to fall in love with Jesus all over again. It is an invitation to attend Mass with renewed devotion, to spend time in Eucharistic Adoration, and to approach Holy Communion with greater faith and gratitude.

If the Eucharist truly is the heartbeat of our Catholic life, then let us keep our hearts close to the Heart of Christ. For in the Eucharist, we do not merely remember Jesus—we encounter Him, receive Him, and are transformed by Him.

And there is no greater gift than that.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Kings 17:1-6; Psalm 121:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Matthew 5:1-12

Tuesday: 1 Kings 17:7-16; Psalm 4:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8; Matthew 5:13-16

Wednesday: 1 Kings 18:20-39; Psalm 16:1b-2ab, 4, 5ab and 8, 11; Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday: Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3; Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6; Matthew 5:20-26

Friday: Deuteronomy 7:6-11; Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 10; 1 John 4:7-16; Matthew 11:25-30

Saturday: 1 Kings 19:19-21; Psalm 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10; Matthew 5:33-37

Sunday: Exodus 19:2-6a; Psalm 100:1-2, 3, 5; Romans 5:6-11; Matthew 9:36-10:8

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, June 14, 2026

Lectors: Diane Charity, Rose Roos

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Margaret Mendy

Ushers: Team B

Eucharistic Ministers: Paula Nix, Rose Palmer, Lydia Ramirez, Rose Roos, Katie Stewart, Pat Williams

Offering Reports

Sunday, May 31, 2026

Regular Offering:	\$3,416.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$551.00
Second Collection:	\$396.00
Hall Rental:	\$150.00

Total **\$4,513.00**

Fundraising Campaign

Weekly Update

Goal	\$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$425,872
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.03%
Actual Cash Received to Date	\$101,045

Legion of Mary Meeting



Please join us for the Legion of Mary, Our Lady of Kibeho/Our Lady of Sorrows Praesidium meetings every Monday at 4 PM at Our Lady of Sorrows, except on the last Monday of the month, when we meet at 4 PM here at St. Monica in the St. Monica building. Your presence will be greatly appreciated, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Women's Bible Study



Ladies, please mark your calendars for an amazing opportunity to explore the Word of God together. Our Women's Bible Study group will meet every first and

third Saturday from 9:30 to 11:00 am. This is a fantastic chance to grow spiritually and delve into the teachings of the Bible in a supportive and engaging environment. For more information, please contact Paula Nix at (816) 471- 3696 or mstpaula.pn@gmail.com.

Juneteenth Blood Drive



Join us for a Blood Drive at St. Monica Catholic Church in Ferguson Hall on Saturday, June 20, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All presenting

donors will receive a complimentary ticket to Worlds of Fun, while supplies last! Tickets are non-transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter "StMonicas."

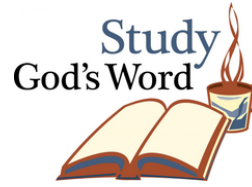
Fundraising Campaign



Thank you to all who have already submitted a pledge card for our parish fundraising campaign. If you have not yet participated, pledge

cards are available at the back of the church. Please return your completed card in the red collection box. Every gift helps move our parish forward.

Wednesday Prayer Service



Join us every Wednesday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM for our uplifting prayer service. We start with an inspiring song, followed by the rosary, and engaging readings.

Together, we will discuss the upcoming Sunday gospel, share our prayer intentions, and conclude with a powerful closing prayer. Come and strengthen your faith with our community!

We Need Your Help



Please mark your calendar for June 19 and 20, 2026. St.

Monica will host a Parking Lot Fundraiser during the Juneteenth Celebration, with all proceeds supporting the St. Monica Fundraising Campaign. We need volunteers to work 2-hour shifts collecting parking fees or directing traffic. If you can help, please sign up on the sheet in the church vestibule. Thank you for your support, The Parking Team

\$100,000 Milestone Reached!

Thanks be to God and to all who have supported our fundraising campaign! We are grateful to announce that we have surpassed \$100,000 in gifts and pledges. Thank you for your generosity, prayers, and commitment to our parish. As we celebrate this milestone, we ask for your continued support as we work toward our campaign goal. Together, we can accomplish great things for the future of our parish.

Prayer List



Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Vauncille Bartlett, Mary Ann Grayson, Donald Parson, Elaine Lomax, Cheryl Warren, Chaunceyetta Mize, Rhea Holloman, Melva McClellan, Velma Jennings, Brenda A. Martin, Marcella Vaughn, Paris Harrington, Michael Lucas, Lola Jacobs, Evalena Davidson (mother of Dan Davidson), Javan Hardy, Frankie Kemp, Carmelita Newman, Conrad McDonald, Opal C. Blankinship, Patrice Williams (daughter of Pat and Don Williams), John James, Barbara Walters, Janee Green (daughter of Pam and Ronald Green), Jublatee O'Neal (New Parishioner), Bonita Akridge, Lawrence Ramirez, Edward H. Franklin, Jr. (Father of Tracey Franklin Bradford), Sean Curry (Son of Angela Curry), Bettye Young, Don Williams, Deacon Darwin Dupree, Yesheka Alexander (daughter of James and Mary Alexander), Carolyn Turner

Please notify Father Leonard when you or a family member have become homebound or admitted to the hospital. Please call the parish office at (816) 471-3696 or email frleonard@stmonicakc.org.

Office of Child & Youth Protection- Sexual Abuse
The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combatting sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you observe or suspect sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. report the suspected abuse to the Diocesan Ombudsman at 816.213.6024 or ombudsmankcsj.org

The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact the Victim Advocate, at 816.714.2357 or victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

Safety Environment Coordinator for St. Monica Parish - Ramonda Doakes, P-(816) 457- 5538, E- rdoakes@stmonicakc.org

Leadership Corner

Evangelization Ministry

Vickie Shackelford	Chairperson
Alvin Brooks	Marsha Willis
Carrie Miller	Jenise Comer
Crystal Miller	Carolyn Greene
Peter Callan	

The Prayer of St. Monica

Cast yourself with confidence into the arms of God and be very sure of this, if God wants anything of you, He will fit you for your work and give you the strength to do it.

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, JUNE 7
 9:00 AM Mass
 11:00 AM Ladies of St. Peter Claver, Fr. Constantine Court 57 (STM)

MONDAY, JUNE 8

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10
 9:00 AM Mass
 6:00 PM Wednesday Night Prayer (S)

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

SATURDAY, JUNE 13
 11:30 AM Altar & Rosary Society (FH)